

Claims (Amended)

I claim:

1. A unitary, retrofit connector that helps prevent hurricane and earthquake damage to a building by positively connecting a roof to a wall, comprising:

- a. a base member;
- b. an offset, angled, top web having generally right angled bends forming rafter webs;
- c. said base web and said top web connected by an offset web;
- d. said offset web having acute angled bends attached to said base web and said top web.

- 2. The connector of claim 1 wherein said base web [member] having a generally flat, generally long-horizontal rectangular shape, with a plurality of nail holes as a means for retrofitting [easy attachment] to said exterior [the outside] wall, and into an underlying structural member [of an existing house, adjacent to a roof structural member].
- 3. The connector of claim 1 wherein said [short and wide] offset web [member] having attachment to said base web [member] by a first generally horizontal bend at an acute angle.
- 4. The connector of claim 1 wherein said [short and wide] offset web [member] having attachment to said top web by a second generally horizontal bend at an acute angle.
- 5. The connector of claim 1 wherein said first and second acute angled bends, attached to opposite ends [the top and bottom] of said offset web [member], having generally unequal bends in opposite directions as an offsetting means of placing

[offsetting] said top web away from [adjacent to] frieze boards and blocking that stick out from said wall on a [completed] house.

6. The connector of claim 5 wherein said unequal bends and offset web forming said base web [member] and said top web unparallel to each other as a means of forming a buttress between [the] a rafter of said roof, [outside] said wall, and underlying structural members [top plate], thereby preventing said exterior [outside] wall from detaching from said roof rafter [a house].
7. The connector of claim 1 wherein said top web having [a] generally vertical [cut line in the approximate center and at generally] right angle[s] bends generally near said second acute angle bend, [and] dividing [es] said top web into left and right blocking webs.
8. The connector of claim 1 wherein said right angle bends [cut lines] forming rafter tabs that are generally vertical, parallel, [and bent at generally right angles] and having a plurality of nail holes [as a means of] for attaching [ment] to the sides of [a] said roof rafter.
9. The connector of claim 8 wherein [said top web having] said blocking webs having an offset and acute angle, thereby placing said blocking webs generally parallel to frieze boards and blocking on said house [approximately perpendicular to said rafter tabs] and said blocking webs having a plurality of nail holes as an attaching means [of attachment] onto said frieze boards and blocking [on a completed house].
10. The connector of claim 1 wherein said base plate, said

rafter tabs, and said blocking webs having attaching means [ed] to an existing house by a plurality of nail holes, as a means for [avoiding frieze boards and] securing together said exterior [outside] wall, said [an] underlying structural member [top plate], said roof rafter, and said frieze boards and blocking thereby preventing wind and seismic [shaking] damage from a hurricane and earthquake.

11. A retrofit apparatus that helps prevent hurricane and earthquake damage to a building by positively connecting the top of a roof to a wall, comprising:

- a. a base member;
- b. an offset, angled top web having right angled bends, called rafter upright bends, forming rafter webs;
- c. said base web and said top web connected by an offset web;
- d. said offset web having acute angled bends attached to said base web and said top web;
- e. said rafter tabs having right angle bends, called sheathing bends, perpendicular to said rafter upright bends, forming strengthening tabs;
- f. said rafter tabs dividing said top web into blocking webs;
- g. said blocking webs having right angle bends, called sheathing bends, perpendicular to said rafter upright bends, forming sheathing tabs;
- h. said sheathing tab folded on top of said strengthening tab;
- i. said sheathing tabs and said strengthening tabs having a bolt hole;
- j. a generally rectangular roof plate having a plurality of bolt holes;
- k. nuts and bolts.

12. The [connector] apparatus of claim 11 wherein said roof plate having a predetermined area and a generally flat shape

[as a means] for conforming to an [the] outside surface of [a] said roof.

13. The [connector] apparatus of claim 11 wherein said roof plate having a plurality of [oblong] bolt holes spaced greater than [the] a width of a roof rafter [as a means] for straddling a roof rafter underlying said [outside surface of said] roof, and having bolt holes [form] for placing [the placement of] said bolts into said [oblong] holes on either side of said rafter.
14. The [connector] apparatus of claim 11 wherein said [metal member] apparatus having attaching means below [a] said roof and said roof plate having attaching means above said roof and to said apparatus below said roof, using nuts and bolts [having prior attachment to structural members of a house and a bolt hole generally parallel to said roof as a means for accepting said bolt from said roof and having connectivity with said nut as a means] for securing said roof to said wall [structural members of a house].